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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

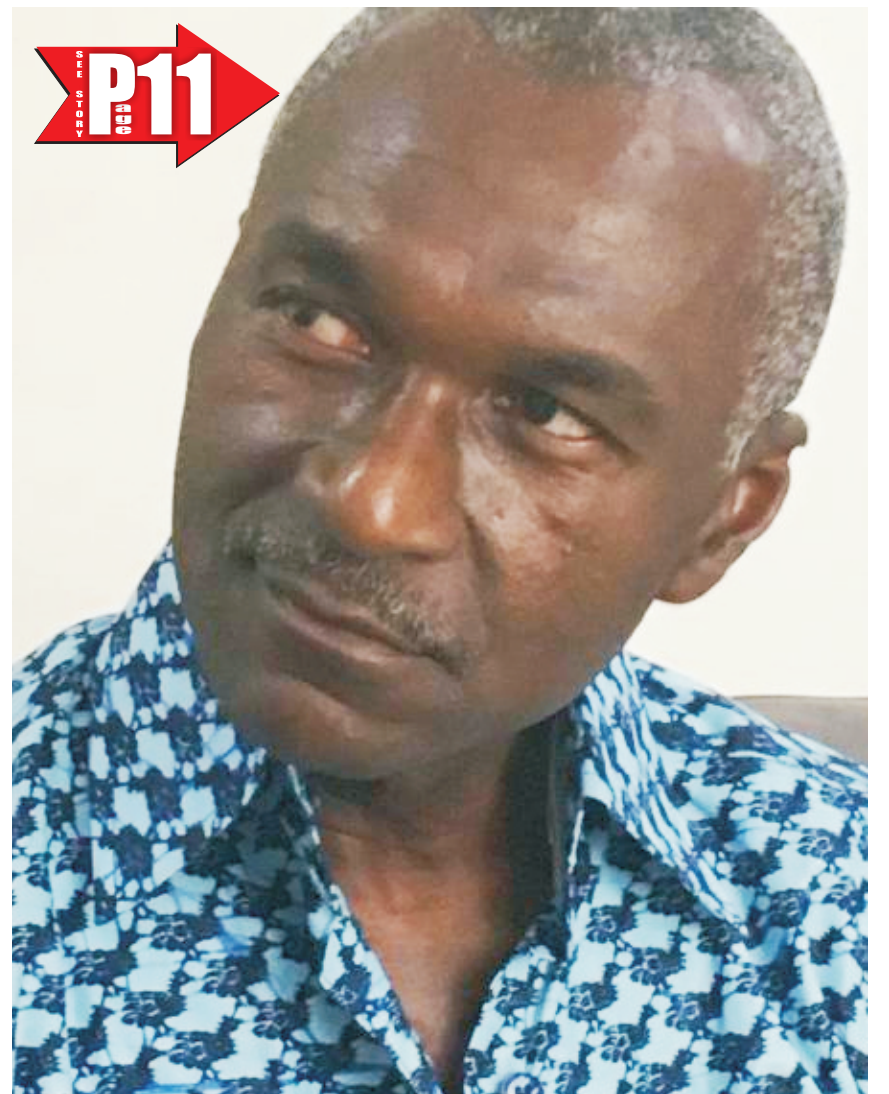
#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019

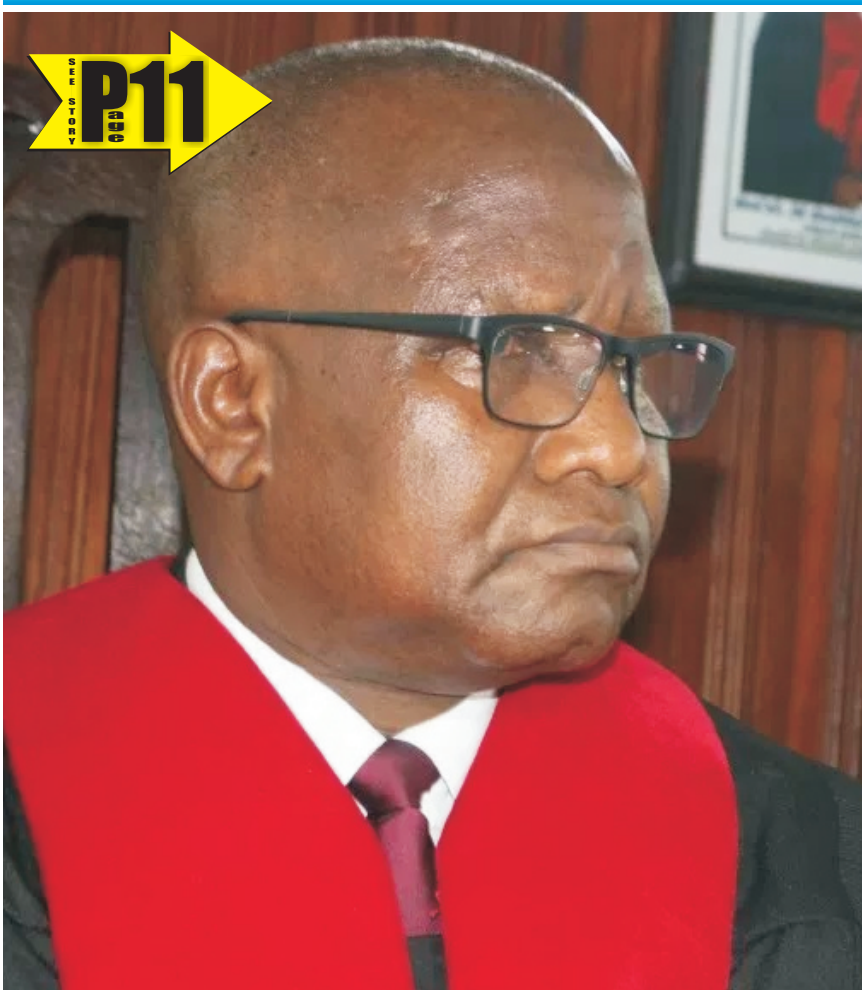
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Nobody wants to kill President Weah - Cummings



P11

Mr. Alexander Cummings of ANC



P11

Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.

CJ rules in his favor - rejects recusal call



Continental News

Zimbabwe's toxic culture of leadership in an entanglement of politics

After the 'coup' in Zimbabwe, too many governments rushed to accept new President Emmerson Mnangagwa as a reformer and largely ignored the nature of the coup itself. What it showed us was a deeply militarised state, entangled with party politics.

There was much jubilation in the streets as former President Robert Mugabe was removed from power in 2017 after 37 years of rule. Suddenly, in a moment of euphoria, images of citizens celebrating with army personnel were beamed around the world as if the role of the military in the suppression of their country had been swept aside.

The perception of the people on the street was clear: things were going to change for the better after years of rule that sought only to benefit those who were in power and the supporters who kept them there.

After more than a year, we are now witnessing a crisis unfolding in Zimbabwe, one that

is neither new nor unexpected, but rather lurking and visible. The current protests over dire economic conditions have experienced violent crackdowns and internet blackouts implemented by a government in crisis. Murder, rape, political

violence and intimidation are among the many human rights abuses that the Zimbabwean security forces are inflicting on people. This crisis has been facilitated by a toxic culture of leadership where party politics, the military and the state have

become so entwined, it is hard to distinguish between them. History shows us the unforgiving consequences of such an enterprise and has certainly repeated itself in the context of Zimbabwe.

After the coup, too many governments rushed to accept Mnangagwa as a reformer and largely ignored the nature of the coup itself. What it showed us was a deeply militarised state, entangled with party politics. While the factionalism in Zanu-PF is complex, they all attach legitimacy of their rule to the liberation movement and a militaristic sense of entitlement. The coup showed us the relationship dynamics between public figures and those in the military who securitise their interests. These interests are simply the capture of public power and economic output while giving the impression of an incompetent government. Perceived threats against these interests and subsequent violent crackdowns have been institutionalised by

those in power and characterised almost 40 years of Zanu-PF rule. The economic issues that Zimbabwe faces today are being exposed as the government loses more and more control over its structures. Commodity shortages, burdensome debts (internal debt now sitting at \$9.5-billion USD), hyperinflation and government overspending are just some of the critical issues the country must grapple with, otherwise, economic collapse will be unavoidable. President Mnangagwa promised to fix a dying economy after taking power but what followed was a series of directionless and bizarre decisions that merely added fuel to the fire, one of which is the announcement in October that US dollar bank accounts would be converted into a local bond note under the guise of addressing currency issues. This is perhaps not so bizarre but rather calculated with some Zimbabwean activists.



Chinese 'Ivory Queen' jailed in Tanzania

Tanzania has sentenced Yang Fenglan, a Chinese businesswoman nicknamed the "Ivory Queen", to 15 years in jail for smuggling hundreds of elephant tusks. Yang was accused of operating one of Africa's biggest ivory-smuggling rings, responsible for smuggling \$2.5m (£1.9m) worth of tusks from some 400 elephants. Two Tanzanian men were also found guilty of involvement in the ring.

Ivory poaching is said to

have caused a 20% decline in the population of African elephants in the last decade.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a global environmental body, says the population of African elephants has fallen to 415,000 - a drop of 110,000 over the last 10 years - as a result of poaching.

The illicit trade is fuelled by demand from China and east Asia, where ivory is used to make jewellery and

ornaments. Yang was convicted on charges relating to the smuggling of around 800 pieces of ivory between 2000 and 2014 from Tanzania to the Far East.

The Tanzanian men were also jailed for 15 years on similar charges.

The court in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's main city, has ordered Yang's property to be repossessed.

She had been under investigation for more than a year when she was arrested in 2015, following a high-speed car chase.

At the time of her arrest, Yang was a prominent businesswoman, operating a Chinese restaurant as well as an investment company in Dar es Salaam.

Fluent in Swahili, she had lived and worked in Tanzania since the 1970s, and had served as vice-president of the China-Africa Business Council of Tanzania. Environmental campaigners welcomed the arrest because she was seen as playing a pivotal role in the illegal ivory trade. Most arrests tend to involve minor players. BBC



Yang Fenglan was a leading figure in business circles at the time of her arrest

Liberia police keep popular station off air

A radio station known for being critical of the Liberian government has been kept off air for the second day after armed police blocked staff's access to the tower that hosts the station's transmitter.

Roots FM, a popular Monrovia radio station which broadcasts on 102.7FM, is owned by the opposition

condemned last week's attack, promising a police investigation. Three weeks ago, a similar attack on the station forced it off air for several days. Liberia's Information Minister Eugene Nagbe said the police presence at Roots FM was part of an ongoing investigation into the station's previous complaint that it had been



political commentator Henry Costa. Just last week, station equipment worth around \$10,000 (£7,760) was stolen and damaged by unidentified gunmen. Among the stolen items was Roots FM's transmitter, which fans crowdfunded to replace with a new one that police are now cordoning off.

The government

vandalised, and had its transmitter stolen away by armed men.

But that statement was rubbished by outspoken opposition politician Yekeh Kolubah,

who said the government simply wants to silence critical views. BBC

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

By Olusegun Obasanjo, John
Dramani Mahama, Ernest Bai
Koroma & Saulos Chilima

NaFAA should negotiate a fair deal

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES and Aquaculture Authority or NaFAA, has an opportunity to take Liberia's fisheries and aquaculture to a better level that would protect our country's marine life and improve operation of local fishermen or move the entire industry down the drain.

THE HOUSE OF Representatives has mandated NaFAA to negotiate the protocol on the implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries and Aquaculture Cooperation between the Government of Liberia and the Government of Senegal that would allow 300 vessels from Senegal, including 200 semi-industrial and 100 artisan canoes to fish our waters in exchange for training for Liberian fisher men.

LIBERIANS ARE GENERALLY apprehensive about the deal, and are not biting their tongues in expressing so for an agreement that is geared at having foreigners exploit our waters with exclusive right to fish just about anything deep in our ocean.

THEIR CONCERNS ARE genuine especially so when Senegal had depleted its own waters of marine life, and is now turning to a vulnerable and less sophisticated country such as Liberia for a vital nature endowment.

FISHES ARE AMONG the healthiest foods on the planet. They are loaded with important nutrients, such as [protein](#) and vitamin D, and are also the world's best source of omega-3 fatty acids, which are incredibly important for the development of the human body and brain.

SENEGAL IS SAID to have demersal trawlers, fishing vessels that have huge funnel-shaped nets that are dragged along the ocean floor in order to maximize catch, including plants and animals that make up the habitat in which fish live and reproduce.

LOCAL FISHERMEN, WHO have regularly complained about foreign fishing vessels illegally casting their nets in Liberian waters, are now asking how effectively NaFAA would monitor 300 additional foreign vessels coming into our waters.

THESE ARE CONCERNS the agency should consider as it goes to formally negotiate with the Senegalese. It should prioritize the interest of local fishermen and not just focus on the taxes or revenue expected.

WHAT GUARANTEE IS there that our ocean would not be depleted by a country that had depleted its marine deposits? Would local fishermen be allowed to continue their normal catch or they would now face restrictions from the Senegalese?

THEY NEED ASSURANCE and NaFAA should be able to provide such confidence that they would not be relegated to give way to foreign fishermen who have their focus on market back home, instead of Liberia.

THESE ARE AMONG some of the germane concerns that should be considered as NaFAA goes to negotiate the protocol. We demand a win-win deal that would benefit not just us today, but posterity.

West Africa's Democratic Tipping Point?

This year and next, Nigeria, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire will hold general elections. Whether the votes reinforce or undermine progress toward democratic consolidation will depend not just on the commitment of national governments and the efforts of civil society, but also on the international community's support.

ABEOKUTA/MUNICH/FREETOWN/LILONGWE - The decision to postpone Nigeria's presidential election, made just hours before polls were due to open, has raised fears about the integrity of the eventual vote. Those fears must not be realized - and not just for Nigeria's sake. Just as a strong and stable democracy in Africa's most populous country can serve as a powerful example for the region, a political crisis there would have grave consequences that extend well beyond its borders.

West Africa, home to about 362 million people, is on the path toward democratic consolidation. According to Freedom House, "Southern and West Africa have significantly improved their democratic governance." This trend has enhanced stability in the region.

In 2019 and 2020, three West African countries - Nigeria, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire - will hold general elections, giving them the opportunity either to reinforce or undermine this trend. With elections in Africa having been known to trigger national crises, there is an obvious need for effective electoral management to ensure that the vote is a stabilizing force, not a destabilizing trigger.

Nigeria, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire are all led by presidents who came to power as opposition candidates, defying the odds of incumbency. All benefited from regional and international solidarity, as well as citizens' commitment to - and civil society's promotion of - democracy. The upcoming elections challenge them to protect the voting systems and respect the values that enabled their rise.

This means, first and foremost, ensuring a level playing field for all candidates and political parties, with incumbents refraining from abusing their power to limit space for opposition candidates. Every politician must follow the rules and respect the outcome. Election-management bodies will be key to ensuring the credibility and fairness of the process.

But, across the region, external support continues to be required to ensure compliance with democratic rules and acceptance of electoral results. In Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Kenya, the combined assets of local and international interlocutors have played key roles in managing controversies resulting from contested elections. In Nigeria, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire, similar collective efforts will be needed to overcome the challenges ahead.

While civil society and citizens push for free, fair, and credible elections, the international community - especially African leaders - must apply both diplomatic and moral pressure to ensure that their demands are met. Such international support is particularly important in Nigeria, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire, because all three countries are already facing internal crises that threaten to disrupt their democracies.

In Nigeria, grave internal security challenges are arising from a resurgence of the militant Islamist group Boko Haram, an upsurge in kidnappings throughout the country, and escalating violence in the Middle Belt, as farmers and herders fight over limited resources. A fractious electoral process would only inflame existing cleavages.

In Senegal, concerns are mounting among the opposition and civil society over Internet freedom, online activism, and net neutrality - fundamental issues that will demand careful management. In this context, political tensions over the disqualification of presidential candidates - including the incumbent's two main challengers - raise major risks.

Côte d'Ivoire, meanwhile, has yet to complete the process of national reconciliation following its 2011 civil war, which was spurred by a dispute between then-President Laurent Gbagbo and his challenger, Alassane Ouattara, over the result of the 2010 presidential election. Gbagbo's recent acquittal by the International Criminal Court, together with the collapse of the country's ruling coalition, compound the difficulty of ensuring continued democratic consolidation.

If managed effectively, challenges that could disrupt democratic progress in the region could instead provide opportunities for further gains. While these countries bear the primary responsibility for navigating their challenges, regional neighbors and the broader international community must also contribute, by helping to strengthen conflict prevention and management and promoting free, fair, and credible elections.

It is particularly important to support civil society's work in these countries, especially with regard to citizen mobilization, documentation of violations, addressing the scourge of fake news, and conflict prevention (including early warning) and management. Nigeria, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire also need credible transnational platforms to complement existing local mechanisms to prevent and resolve conflicts. The region and the broader international community should support such institutions.

The international community must also emphasize - through public statements and behind-the-scenes engagement - the need for politicians and officials in these countries to respect electoral rules, protect institutions vital for democracy, and put the welfare of citizens and sustainable development first. Election-management bodies must be insulated from undue political interference and given space to carry out their work.

Finally, the international community must encourage gatekeepers of the electoral process to approach their work with integrity and neutrality. This demands close observation by international observers.

Support for credible democratic elections in Nigeria, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire is essential. If these countries descend into political crisis, the security, humanitarian, and economic consequences for the entire region will be grave. These are not problems the world wants to manage right now.

Conversely, successful elections in these countries would strengthen democracy, enhance national and regional stability, and support continued economic development. With citizen determination, domestic political will, and international solidarity, this outcome is within reach.

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O-PED

By Ruti Teitel

Should America Ever Apologize?

NEW YORK - Earlier this month, academics at the American University in Cairo declared no confidence in the institution's president, following his decision to grant US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo an uncontested platform for a partisan foreign-policy speech last month. Pompeo used the occasion to decry former President Barack Obama's own pronouncements from the same stage a decade earlier, and to issue an implicit endorsement of the Middle East's reigning autocrats.

Pompeo's primary line of attack against Obama's famous Cairo speech, "A New Beginning," is that it included a public admission of the United States' past missteps in the region. Unlike the Trump administration, Obama and his advisers believed that there is much to be gained by acknowledging difficult political truths, even when doing so points to a radical change in course.

Accordingly, when Obama delivered his June 2009 speech, he took the bold step of admitting mutual misunderstandings between the West and the Arab and Muslim worlds. He acknowledged that Western colonialism "had denied rights and opportunities to many Muslims," and that "modernity and globalization" had "led many Muslims to view the West as hostile to the traditions of Islam."

Touching on America's response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, Obama conceded that "fear and anger ... in some cases ... led us to act contrary to our traditions and our ideals." But, most important, he argued that, "we must say openly to each other the things we hold in our hearts and that too often are said only behind closed doors." Only then could mutual trust, peace, democracy, and equality be achieved.

Pompeo's vulgar reenactment of Obama's appearance in Cairo reflected the foundational importance of the 2009 address. As it happens, Obama's address was followed 18 months later by the Arab Spring, which, despite its overarching failure, put more countries in the region - particularly Tunisia - on varying paths to democracy. Obama also issued an overture to Iran, setting the stage for unprecedented negotiations and an eventual agreement that would forestall a regional nuclear arms race.

Implicit in Pompeo's repudiation of Obama is the idea that American strength depends on never admitting any wrongdoing. Like many of the Trump administration's policy choices, Pompeo's act of political theater seemed to have been geared toward reversing or erasing Obama's legacy. Whereas Obama opened his speech in Cairo with the Arabic greeting "Assalaamu alaykum," Pompeo began his with references to the Bible and to his own commitment to evangelical Christianity.

Categorically rejecting Obama's call for a "new beginning," Pompeo touted America as "a force for good" in the region. "The age of self-inflicted American shame is over," he announced, "and so are the policies that produced so much needless suffering. Now comes the real new beginning."

From its opening days, the Trump administration has expressed contempt for the idea that public confessions of American missteps can do anything but weaken the US. Hence, in his May 2018 commencement address at the US Naval Academy, President Donald Trump announced that, "We are not going to apologize for America. We are going to stand up for America. ... Because we know that a nation must have pride in its history to have confidence in its future."

In fact, Trump's rejection of historical introspection and atonement is at odds with a longstanding American tradition of deriving strength from conciliatory leadership on the world stage. Since America's founding, its best foreign-policy moments have come when its leaders act pragmatically, demonstrating a capacity for self-reflection.

For example, after the Revolutionary War, America's first president, George Washington, pushed for reconciliation and a favorable peace settlement (a "new beginning") with Great Britain. Rather than dwell on colonial grievances and past British transgressions, his primary concern was to ensure political stability and sound economic relations for both countries well into the future.

Similarly, as the American Civil War was nearing its end, President Abraham Lincoln focused not on punishing the Confederacy, but on formulating an inclusive policy to reunite the country in a "new birth of freedom." More recently, President George H.W. Bush apologized and issued reparations, on behalf of the country, to Japanese-Americans who had been interned during World War II on the basis of their ethnicity. And that gesture was eventually followed by Obama's much-heralded speech in Hiroshima, where he reflected on America's use of atomic bombs against Japanese civilians (though he did not issue a formal apology).

Finally, since the 1990s, the US has been reckoning with the legacy of the Cold War. While President Bill Clinton apologized for the US's "dirty war" policies in Central America during the second half of the twentieth century, Obama acknowledged similar US actions in Cuba, Peru, and Argentina. These statements had uncertain political payoffs, but they demonstrated real political leadership, and presented America as an honest broker, despite its many imperfections.

As the recent faculty revolt at the American University in Cairo showed, the Trump administration risks finding itself on the wrong side of history. By repudiating past acts of American atonement, Pompeo was no doubt hoping to signal a break from Obama-era US foreign policy. But he was also abandoning a tradition of American global leadership that has long served as a source of national strength. As is typical with the Trump administration, its partisan chest-thumping backfired. Though Pompeo stood unchallenged in Cairo, the position he represents has become an increasingly lonely one on the world stage.

OPINION

By Sławomir Sierakowski

The Sikorski Doctrine

WARSAW - Radosław Sikorski served as Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs for seven years, longer than anyone else since the transition from communism 30 years ago. During his tenure, Sikorski faced many serious challenges, from the 2010 plane crash at Smolensk that killed then-Polish President Lech Kaczyński to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea in 2014. Now, he has published a new book, outlining his philosophy of Polish foreign policy.

In *Polska może być lepsza* (Poland Can Be Better), Sikorski picks up on a 300-year tradition of Polish romanticism, only without all of the accompanying pathologies. His evident fascination with Polish history - even Polish mythology - is a welcome departure from the soulless Realpolitik that dominates so many political memoirs nowadays.

Through tales of hosting foreign guests at his manor in Chobielin to his retelling of Poland's great military victories in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Sikorski proves always willing to defend Poland's good name. It was Sikorski, after all, who first campaigned against use of the term "Polish death camps," though he did so more skillfully than the current Law and Justice (PiS) government.

Nevertheless, Sikorski's approach to Polish history is to deconstruct it completely. He questions whether "contemporary nations" are really capable of having "honor" and highlights the damage that grand, demonstrative political acts committed in its name have done to Poland. In the best cases, the acts yield nothing; in the worst cases, they "succeed" by visiting terror and bloodshed upon the country. For example, almost no Poles regard the 1944 Warsaw Uprising as a defeat, even though it claimed some 200,000 civilian lives and led to the total destruction of the city.

In contemporary foreign affairs, Sikorski is always mindful of Polish interests, even - or especially - when it comes to dealing with more powerful countries like the United States. It is best, he argues, to start from a position of trust, but not if it means being played for a fool. Poland should demand reciprocity and avoid risks whenever possible. It should set ambitious goals, but only if they are feasible.

That means acknowledging that a country like Poland can never succeed on its own. The attraction the country held for major powers after 1989 stemmed from its accession to major international organizations such as the European Union, NATO, and the OECD. Still, Sikorski's book serves as a reminder of a time when Poland's foreign policy did have some significance for the EU, not least during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Since PiS came to power, Poland has been left increasingly isolated within the EU.

During his time in public office (2005-2015), Sikorski's main priority was to ensure Poland's security by maintaining good relations with America and ramping up the US military presence inside Polish borders. Yet he is quick to add that Poland should avoid becoming a client state.

Indeed, Sikorski does not hide his frustration over the trajectory of Polish-American relations during President Barack Obama's administration. Poland's military presence in Iraq did not bring the hoped-for benefits. The anti-missile shield has not been built. The American military presence in Poland remains largely symbolic. If he had to choose, he would rather Poland be a strong country within the EU than a lesser ally of the US. Indeed, Sikorski comes close to saying that the US security guarantee is illusory, which is one of the greatest foreign-policy dangers imaginable.

Sikorski advocates a pragmatic approach to Russia, recognizing that it is the only existential geopolitical threat Poland faces. He cautions against the tendency among Poles to "hate Russia much more than they love Poland," as the father of Polish nationalism, Roman Dmowski, once put it. Sikorski thinks Poland should cooperate with Russia as much as possible, not through empty gestures, but by assuming an influential position within the EU - a body that Russia takes seriously. And he reminds us that Russia is Poland's largest non-EU trading partner.

Of course, Poland's single-largest trade partner overall is Germany, which championed EU membership for Poland. Sikorski makes clear that the Polish-German alliance must be nurtured. But that is sometimes easier said than done, as demonstrated by Poland's opposition to Nord Stream 2, a joint German-Russian pipeline that will allow Russian natural gas deliveries to Germany and the wider EU to bypass Ukraine and Poland.

Sikorski considers Polish concerns about Nord Stream 2 well-founded, but exaggerated. The most important component of Polish security is Poland's relationship with Germany. Under NATO contingency plans, it is Germany that would deploy forces to defend Poland in the event of an attack. The decision to follow through on the North Atlantic Treaty's mutual-defense clause would most likely be made in Berlin, not in Washington, DC.

Finally, Sikorski explains how, in managing relations with Poland's neighbors, he embraced the primacy of politics over history. As foreign minister, he pursued the traditional policy of developing a buffer between Poland and Russia, not least by initiating the Eastern Partnership as a way to bring Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova closer to the EU and NATO.

Looking back, Sikorski was smart also to include Sweden in this process, as Sweden and Poland tend to complement and amplify each other's strengths. For its part, Sweden is wealthy, but small. And while it has a good reputation as a longstanding EU member, it is not capable of influencing the bloc on its own. Poland, by contrast, has a larger population and comparable economy, but lacks Sweden's soft power. Both countries are wary of Russia's imperialist tendencies.

The publication of Sikorski's book marks his return to active politics after a three-year break. He is well-positioned to continue his career among the international elite of public intellectuals. But that will not satisfy his inner political animal. Now that he has presented his worldview, campaigning for a seat in the European Parliament - where he would no doubt play an important role - seems his most likely next step.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA IN THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH
MONTERRADO COUNTY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTERRADO
COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS DECEMBER
TERM OF COURT A.D. 2018

BEFORE HIS HONOR YUSSIF D. KABA.....RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE

Morris Sekou McGee of Monrovia, Liberia

.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

Randa Bennah Mcgee of Dulluth GA. USA

.....DEFENDANT

ACTION OF DIVORCE
FOR INCOMPATIBILITY OF
TEMPER

WRIT OF SUMMONS

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO THE SHERIFF FOR MONTERRADO
COUNTY, R.L. OR ITS DEPUTY;
GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS THE ABOVE NAMED
DEFENDANT, TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTERRADO COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS
MARCH, A.D. 2019 TERM OF COURT AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 IN THE
MORNING, SAME BEING THE THIRD MONDAY IN MARCH, A.D. 2019,
TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT OF THE ABOVE NAME PLAINTIFF.
THAT UPON HER FAILURE, JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE
RENDERED AGAINST HIM

YOU ARE FUTHER COMANDED TO NOTIFY THE SAID DEFENDANT
TO FILE HER FORMAL APPEARANCE AND OR ANSWER IN MY
OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE 15 DAY OF Jan A.D. 2019
MEANWHILE YOU WILL RETURN THE ORIGINAL WRIT OF SUMMONS
TO MY OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE 25th DAY OF Jan A.D., 2019
WITH THE OFFICIAL RETURNS ENDORSED ON THE BACK OF THE
ORIGINAL AS TO THE MANNER OF ITS SERVICE.

AND HAVE THERE TIS WRIT OF SUMMONS

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL
THIS 15th DAY OF Jan; A.D. 2019

COURT SEAL

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appearance before me a duly qualified Justice of the Peace,
for and in Monterrado County, at my office in the City of Monrovia, Ruth
Jappah, Counsellor-at-Law, and one of counsels for Plaintiff in the above
entitled cause of action and made oath according to law that all and
singular the allegations of both law and facts as set forth and contained in
the annexed plaintiff's complaint are true and correct to the best of her
knowledge and belief, and as to those matters of information, she verily
believes them to be true and correct.

Sworn and Subscribed to before
Me in my office in the city of
Monrovia, Liberia this 15th day of
A.D. 2019

Ruth Jappah
Deponent/Counsellor-at-Law



SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

Plaintiff in the above-entitled cause of action most respectfully prays this court and your Honor for a
decree, granting divorce from his wife, for cause shows reasons as follows:

1. That after six (6) months of marriage and living in peace and harmony, their marriage deteriorated to the extent that living with the Defendant became so strained and dangerous due to abusive and violent behavior by the Defendant against the Plaintiff when she on several occasions attacked him with knife thereby threatening the Plaintiff life that he was left with no choice but to separate.
2. That the differences between Plaintiff and the Defendant have become irreconcilable up to filing of this action, which makes it impossible for them remain married.
3. WHEREFORE, AND IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, Plaintiff prays this Honorable Court for a Decree, dissolving their marriage and declaring them two separate and distinct persons, both in law and equity, as if they were never married, and grant unto Plaintiff such other and further relief as the law directs.

February 13, 2019

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)
Menetamba Road, Cooper's Beach Community
Paynesville, Liberia

Supply of Assorted Office Equipment

Contract Identification No: IFB No: LTA/NCB/007/18/19

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) has apportioned funds from its core budget towards the cost of procuring assorted Office Equipment (IFB No: LTA/NCB/007/18/19).

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority now invites your firm to submit sealed bids for the supply of the below mentioned office equipment (IT). Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedures as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPC Act) of September 2010.

The supply of assorted office equipment (IT) as per LTA's needs, quantities and requirements included in Bid document:

REF NO:	DESCRIPTION	ITEM	QTY	BID SECURITY USD
IFB NO. LTA/NCB/007/18/19	SUPPLY OF IT EQUIPMENT	PRINTER, UPS, LAPTOP AND DESKTOP COMPUTERS	ASSORTED	300.00

A complete set of bidding documents (soft copy) can be obtained free of charge at the below address. Bid security must be submitted together with bid document, and **must be per the amount stated above in Manager's Check or Bank Guarantee.**

Qualification requirements include the following:

- Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority);
- Article of Incorporation/Partnership Agreement (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
- Must provide two (2) references of previous or current clients over the last two (2) years;
- Must provide proof of being registered with the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC);
- Availability of supply(ies) upon the issuance of an approved Local Purchase Order (LPO) or within a minimum period of 10 days.

You may obtain bidding documents and further information from the Procurement & Logistics Section, Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), 3rd Floor Room 29, from Monday- Friday (9:00 A.M- 5:00 P.M).

Submission must be clearly marked, signed and sealed in an envelope, including other requested information as follows: (IFB No: LTA/NCB/007/18/19) **CONFIDENTIAL BID- for the Supply of Assorted Office Equipment to the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) for Fiscal Year 2017/2018** and addressed to:

Procurement & Logistics Section
3rd Floor, Room 29
Liberia Telecommunications Authority
Menetamba Road, Cooper's Beach Community
Paynesville, Liberia
Mobile number: +231-886591857/+231-886589047/+231-777564210
Web address: www.lta.gov.lr

A pre-bid opening meeting will be held at the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) 3rd Floor P&L Conference Room # 28 on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 1:00 PM to answer questions relevant to the bidding process. Seven (7) days after which, all clarification requests would remain unanswered to.

Bids must be submitted at the Procurement & Logistics Section, Room # 29, 3rd Floor, on Monday, March 18, 2017 on or before 2:00 PM. Bid Opening will be done promptly after closing at 2:00 PM, in Conference Room # 28 on the 3rd Floor, in the presence of bidders' representatives or those who choose to attend.

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted including the annulment of the entire process through notifying bidders without incurring any liability thereof.

Signed:
Prince G. Goun Jr.
Procurement & Logistics Manager

Approved:
S. Bidi Elliott
Director of Administration

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

House gives NaFAA greenlight

By Bridgett Milton

Amid public opposition to a controversial fishing cooperation between the Government of Liberia and the Government of Senegal, the House of Representatives has given the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority or NaFAA approval to negotiate the deal.

The deal has raised more questions than answers about the future of Liberia's fisheries and aquaculture, since news about it broke out few weeks ago.

The House Plenary mandates the Director General of NaFAA, Emma Glassco, to perform all due diligence concerning the protocol on the implementation of the agreement between Liberia and Senegal thus, endorsing report by its committees on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Investment and Concessions. Plenary had instructed the joint committee to look into the matter.

In its report Tuesday before full Plenary, the committee notes that the proposed deal titled, "Protocol on the implementation of the Agreement of Fisheries and Aquaculture Cooperation between the Government of Liberia and the Government of Senegal", is a bilateral agreement not yet signed by both governments.

The report reveals that the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of

Finance and Development Planning of Liberia have not yet signed the agreement to become a legal and binding instrument.

The Committee stresses that any Senegalese business interested in fishing in Liberian waters must meet the preconditions and all criteria set for licenses under the laws of Liberia.

The lawmakers note that the protocol on the agreement is still at its embryonic stage and needs to reach its maturity to meet their involvement.

Committee Chairman Representative Prince O. S. Tokpah, says the

Executive.

Liberians are generally apprehensive about the deal that would allow 300 Senegalese vessels, including 200 semi-industrial and 100 artisan canoes to fish in Liberia's waters.

The protocol states that vessels under the agreement will fish "in-demand" shrimp and tuna in spite dangers associated with such practices to marine ecosystem.

Both countries will work to



document has not reached the stage of agreement for them to question it, adding that the Executive has right to look for investors and they as lawmakers have right to ratify concessions.

Speaker Bhofal Chambers agrees, saying the Executive dose the negotiation, after which it goes to the Legislature for approval, so they have no intention to do the work of the

promote cooperation in the area of aquaculture through exchange of scientific information and techniques, organization of expert visits and producers, including conferences and training workshops and implementation of joint aquaculture project, among others. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Single currency key

Starts from backpage

Agency, Mr. Momodou Bamba Saho, disclosed that the economic activity in the ECOWAS continued to strengthen as real GDP is projected at 3.1 percent in 2018 compared to 2.3 percent in 2017.

This performance, the best since 2015, he noted, mainly reflected the outcome of interventions and investment in agriculture, construction and sustained performance in services in most countries as well as increased production of oil and gas in Ghana and Nigeria.

The report further showed that Liberia and Gambia also contributed to the growth performance of the region for the period under review.

In the area of macroeconomic convergence, the WAMA Director General noted that performance improved in the first half of 2018, in the areas of budget deficit, central bank financing of the budget deficit and gross external reserves.

However, he noted that the outturn remained unchanged in terms of the number of countries meeting the criterion on average inflation.

The WAMA Director General's report also assessed the Exchange Rate Developments in ECOWAS Member States.

At the end of December 2018, he pointed out, developments in the exchange rates of ECOWAS currencies were marked by an appreciation of the CFA franc and escudo against the WAUA, while other currencies in the region weakened with respect to the WAUA.

According to the WAMA Director General, the Liberian dollar experienced the highest depreciation followed by the Leone.

The Naira he said, was more stable during the review period compared to the preceding period.

This, Director General Saho observed reflected trends in the international foreign exchange market but also the peculiar economic situation of some Member States.

In most cases he said, Central Banks' interventions in

the foreign exchange market made it possible to at least contain fluctuations to more reasonable proportions.

"Moreover, trends in bilateral exchange rates showed that the CFA franc and the escudo were the only currencies that appreciated against all the other ECOWAS currencies.

The other currencies that strengthened the most were the Guinean franc and the Naira.

The Liberian dollar, on the other hand, depreciated against all ECOWAS currencies," the WAMA Director General pointed out in his report.

In response to the depreciation of the Liberian dollar during the review period (January-July, 2018), the Liberian delegation provided clarification on the efforts by the government to stabilize the Liberian dollar, which has seen significant stability for the second half of 2018.

The Dakar meeting is, among other issues, considering progress reports of the Director General of WAMA; a report on the ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation Program for the first half of 2018; a report on Exchange Rate Developments of ECOWAS Currencies as at the end of December 2018 and a report on the study of the effectiveness of the interest rate channel in monetary policy impulses within ECOWAS.

Critical to the adoption of the Single Currency by 2020 are the establishment of a common monetary policy framework, a common exchange rate regime, a model for the common central bank, and the name of the common currency.

The meeting is also considering a status report on relocation of WAMA headquarters; Capacity Assessment and Proposal for a New Organigram for the Agency and the 2019 Work Program for the WAMA as well as the proposed Budget for 2019.

The joint meeting is being attended by representatives from Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, The Gambia, Ghana and UMOA countries and other regional institutions involved with the EMCP. *--Press release*

Authorities announce plans to inspect drugs stores

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Liberia Medicine and Health Products Regulatory Authority has announced plans to start inspecting drugs stores and pharmacies in continuation of

the fight against the selling of expired medicines here.

Announcing the plan recently in an interview, the institution's Regional Medicine Regulatory Manager for Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties Pharmacist E. Sayuoh Davies

says the sale of expired medicines is seriously damaging the lives of citizens here.

As regulators, Mr. Davies assures that they will continue to investigate and confiscate expired medicines.

According to him, they are not just confiscating expired drugs but also arresting and prosecuting those that usually sell drugs in buckets and at open places.

Mr. Davies discloses that the Liberia Medicine and Health Products Regulatory Authority considers the selling of medicines in the open and in buckets as prohibited.

He states that it helps to destroy the molecule of the

medicines and turn it to chemical which is not good for consumption.

Mr. Davies told our Bong County correspondent that the inspection will soon start and they will be working along with the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency and the Liberia National Police in battling the

sale of expired medicines.

He warns those selling medicines in buckets to immediately stop.

In concluding, Mr. Davies calls on citizens not to buy medicines from folks selling in buckets and in open places if they should be saved. *--Edited by Winston W. Parley*



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Students cite poor learning conditions at universities

By Emmanuel Mondaye

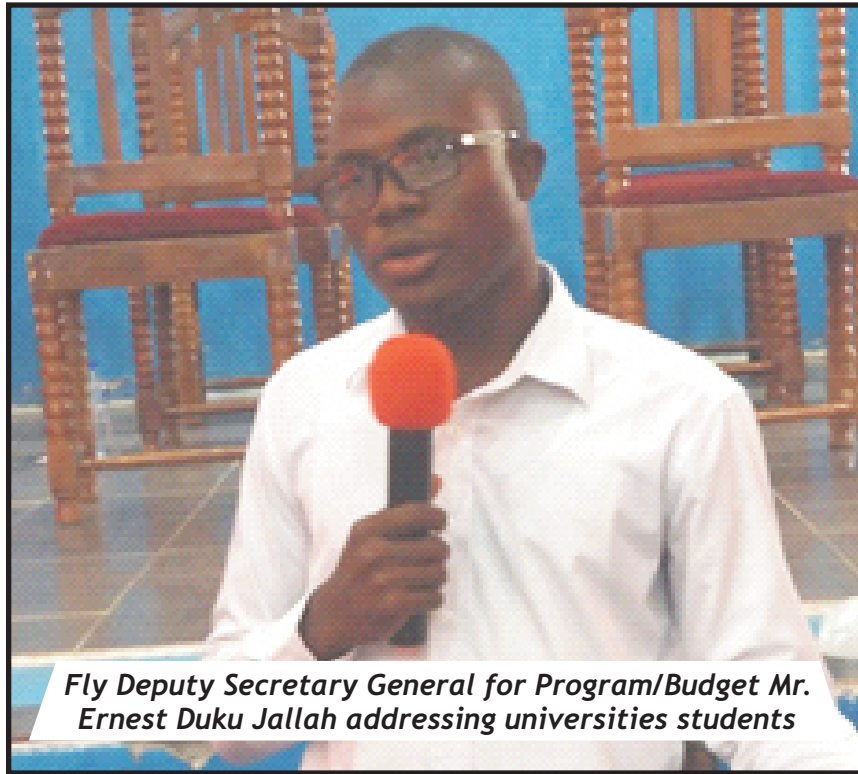
Students from various universities and colleges here have made several suggestions aimed at improving the learning environment of students in Liberia.

Their suggestions were made recently in Monrovia during a one-day engagement dubbed "Youth Speak Forum 2019."

In their suggestions to the government, the students call for the creation of avenues to provide vocational and technical education for young people that lack careers.

The students want government to focus more on the development of technological advancement of students in universities and colleges through the introduction of technology as part of their studies.

They believe that when students acquire these skills, they will have the opportunity to compete with other students in other parts of the world.



Fly Deputy Secretary General for Program/Budget Mr. Ernest Duku Jallah addressing universities students

The students acknowledge that government cannot do everything for the student population here, making further suggestion that private companies and institutions operating here help the government to employ qualified young people.

Meanwhile, the Secretary General for Program at the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) Mr. Ernest Duku Jallah has argued that there are dozens of qualified young people who are in dire need of jobs.

According to Jallah, private

entities can assist government by hiring their services, noting that the young people can actively contribute to the social and economic development of the country when they are employed by private companies and institutions.

He also urged young people to learn how to plan their future activities which would serve as a guide in achieving their goals.

The FLY official encourages fellow students to have a progressive mind set by supporting their peer groups to become successful in their future endeavors.

Jalleh notes that the country needs qualified students that will replace the older generation.

The Youth Speak Forum is an annual affair where students from universities and colleges and graduates meet to

brainstorm on matters of national concern.

The national president of International Association of Students in Economics and Management (AIESEC) - Liberia Mr. Renijus N. Iweobi told reporters that this year's forum was sponsored by the International Bank Liberia Limited, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and another organization.

Mr. Iweobi says the purpose of the students' engagement was to discuss the impact made on their lives since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was introduced by the former Government of Liberia.

According to Mr. Iweobi, graduates of at least 350 universities and colleges are serving as volunteers on various AIESEC sponsored projects around the world. --

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Police probe minister impersonator

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has announced an investigation against a 32-year-old man identified as Arthur Boy Harris for impersonating and receiving money under false pretense.

According to police's preliminary investigation, suspect Harris allegedly collected US\$500 from victim James Mark Sackie while purporting as Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill.

According to a police statement released Monday, 18 February, victim Sackie told police investigators that the suspect promised to do everything possible to give him a job in government.

The victim says after paying the US\$500, he later attempted to verify the number used by the suspect to establish whether it was Minister McGill's number.

He reveals that after visiting the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs, he later found out that the number did not match that of Minister McGill.

Victim McGill explains that he then planned a strategy of offering to give suspect Harris more money in an attempt to have him arrested.

Suspect Harris was arrested on 12th Street, Sinkor on 13 February at 1330hrs PM, and held by police pending court trial. --Press release

Starts from backpage

Judge recommends

Appeal, A Key to Speedy Disposition of Cases - A Desideratum for Good Business Climate in Liberia", Judge Smith notes that the ease of doing business in Liberia is a prerequisite to good business climate, as it encourages businesses to invest in the Liberian economy, and the Country enjoys economic prosperity and development.

"Unfortunately", he observes, "the World Bank Ease of Doing Business in 190 of the world's economies (2019) shows that our Country Liberia ranks as the 18th lowest."

The World Bank has identified several key indicators relative to the ease of doing business in 190 countries, including (1) the challenges to getting credit or loans from banks and other financial institutions by businesses and other individuals; (2) The challenges to resolving insolvency or bankruptcy of businesses whereby the Court decides whether or not to relieve an insolvent - bankrupt or broke - business of its debts owed to creditors; and (3) The challenges to enforcing contracts between banks or other financial institutions, as lenders, and businesses and other individuals, as borrowers.

Judge Smith calls for the establishment of five (5) regional courts of appeal across the country, notably in

Grand Gedeh County, Bong County, Margibi County, Montserrado County and in Monrovia, respectively.

He says the KEY to speedy disposition of cases requires the establishment of courts of appeal in the various judicial circuits of Liberia, but notes the call is not new, as the Liberian legal profession and others have continually advocated for the establishment of courts of appeal.

"We are well aware that the Supreme Court's docket is exceedingly overcrowded; the Supreme Court is overwhelmed with influx of appeals from our trial courts of record; party litigants from far-away circuits do not take advantage of their right of appeal to the Supreme Court due to time and costs of travel to the Supreme Court all the way to the Nation's Capital City of Monrovia; and bad lawyers do abuse the right of appeal to the Supreme Court by filling unmeritorious and frivolous appeals calculated to "hang" or keep cases in abeyance", he observes.

He says these are challenges with which the nation's courts are confronted in the speedy disposition of cases, but stresses they can be surmounted by Liberians taking the courage to establish courts of appeal in the country.

He argues that the jurisprudence or philosophy of establishing a court of appeal is

that the decisions of this court, with a 3-penal judges sitting, would be final because there is no right of appeal to the Supreme Court, as appeal to the Supreme Court, is only granted by leave or permission of the Supreme Court and not because the appealing party has the right to appeal.

With courts of appeal established here, the Liberian Supreme Court, like supreme courts in other common law jurisdictions with courts of appeal, will then focus on its original jurisdiction and may only hear appeals of very important cases of public interest, such as those involving the Constitution, election matters; and capital cases like treason, armed robbery, hi-jacking, terrorism, murder and other capital offences.

Judge Smith: "Some may argue that Liberia is too small and there is no money for the creation of courts of appeal in Liberia. I do not think this is a strong argument against the establishment of courts of appeal in this Country with a population of 4.7 million and an area of 43,000 sq. mi."

He counters that the good business climate, investment and economic development benefits that will accrue to Liberia with the establishment of courts appeal clearly outweigh the 'Liberia-too-small and no-money argument.'

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He cites as examples, The Gambia with a population of merely 2 million and area of 4,363 sq. mi. has a court of appeal and the American States of Connecticut, Oklahoma and Kentucky with populations of 3.6 million, 3.9 million and 4.5 million, respectively, having courts of appeal.

He maintains that on the issue of money, the creation of courts of appeal will bring money to Liberia because cases, including those relating to the enforcement of contracts, will be disposed of expeditiously; thus creating a

good business climate for investment and economic development, cautioning that businesses will not be encouraged to invest in a country where they will spend much of their time and money prosecuting or defending cases in court.

Meanwhile, Judge Smith reveals that nine (9) cases are currently on the trial docket for the February Term plus summary proceedings from Magisterial Courts in the county. -Story by Jonathan Browne

Français

L'audience sur la requête en récusation du juge en chef a commencé

La requête en récusation du juge en chef de la cour suprême Francis S. Korkpor dans le cadre du procès en destitution du juge associée Kabineh M. Ja'neh a fait lundi l'objet d'un débat au Sénat. Les avocats de la Chambre des représentants craignent que la récusation du juge Korkpor ne crée une crise institutionnelle.

En effet, les avocats de la Chambre des Représentants qui a adopté le projet de loi portant destitution du juge Ja'neh fondent leurs arguments sur l'article 43 de la Constitution qui donne au Président de la Cour suprême le pouvoir de faire office de juge président en cas de procès en destitution du président de la république, du vice-président et d'un juge associé de la cour suprême.

À l'audience de la requête en récusation du juge en chef Korkpor, le lundi 18 février, le conseil Syrenius Cephus, avocat de la Chambre des représentants, a affirmé que le président de la cour suprême n'a pas le pouvoir de se récuser.

Mais les avocats du juge Ja'neh soutiennent que le juge en chef et trois autres juges



Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor



Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh

ont signé une décision qui donne feu vert aux législateurs pour procéder à la procédure de destitution du juge Ja'neh. Pour les avocats de la défense du juge Ja'neh, par sa décision, le juge en chef s'est disqualifié du procès en destitution.

Pourtant, la disposition constitutionnelle reste muette sur ce qui devrait être fait lorsque le Juge en chef est réputé non qualifié pour présider un procès en destitution.

Le juge associé Ja'neh est visé par une procédure de destitution qui ferait suite à un conflit foncier qui l'avait opposé à une certaine Madame Annie Yancy Constance. La Cour suprême s'était prononcée en sa faveur, mais les législateurs dénoncent un abus de pouvoir et un trafic d'influence dans cette affaire, d'où la procédure de destitution.

Mais les avocats du juge associé Ja'neh ont argué que

c'est le juge en chef Korkpor qui avait présidé le procès en question et avait également signé la décision qui était en faveur du juge Ja'neh, une décision qui fait partie des chefs d'accusation du juge Ja'neh.

Le conseil Cephus accuse les avocats du juge Ja'neh de vouloir utiliser cette requête pour provoquer un chaos grave dans le pays. Selon lui, si le Juge en chef se récuse, cela constituera une violation grave de la loi et une trahison et entraînera également la destitution de celui-ci. Pour lui, le juge en chef agit en qualité de président de tribunal et non de juge en chef, d'ailleurs l'article 43 de la Constitution lui donne le pouvoir de présider tout procès de cette nature.

Selon Me Cephus, la requête du Juge associé n'a aucun fondement factuel et ni juridique, il s'agit d'une

procédure législative et non une procédure judiciaire. Il estime que le Juge en chef n'est coupable d'aucun conflit d'intérêt, notant que l'affaire Annie Yancy Constance était fondée.

Arguant pour la défense du juge Ja'neh, le conseil Arthur T. Johnson a déclaré que l'article 90 (a) de la Constitution libérienne stipule que le Chief Justice peut se récuser s'il est membre de la famille ou a une connexion avec le verdict.

L'article 90 (a) dit : « Aucune personne, élue ou nommée à une fonction publique, ne doit se livrer à une autre activité allant à l'encontre de l'ordre public ou constituant un conflit d'intérêts. »

Me Johnson fait valoir que le juge en chef doit se récuser en tant que président, car il a signé un jugement de la Cour suprême et une décision qui a conduit au procès en destitution au Sénat.

Selon lui, le Juge en chef est une partie dans l'affaire en l'espèce et ne doit donc pas présider à l'audience, ajoutant que la requête en récusation devrait être présentée par le Juge en chef et non sur des sentiments.

Me Johnson a en outre fait valoir que si les législateurs estiment que le juge Ja'neh a manipulé la Cour suprême, alors la crédibilité du juge en chef est mise en cause, car il est le chef de cette cour suprême qui se serait laisser manipuler.

Un autre avocat du juge Ja'neh, Me Johnny Momo, a appelé le juge en chef de se récuser pour préserver la dignité et l'intégrité de la Cour suprême du Libéria.

Le législateur Marvin Cole craint pour sa vie

Le représentant du comté de Bong, Marvin Cole, a dit craindre pour sa vie. Le député fait partie des personnes soupçonnées d'être impliquées dans un complot présumé qui viserait à renverser le gouvernement du président George Manneh Weah.

Le représentant Cole et la

vice-présidente Jewel Howard-Taylor sont nommés dans un enregistrement audio dans lequel la surintendante du comté de Bong, Esther Walker, déclare que le ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweah, et le ministre des Affaires présidentielles, Nathaniel McGill, soupçonnent de hauts responsables de vouloir

renverser le gouvernement actuel.

A Madame Walker d'affirmer dans l'enregistrement que les soupçons du renversement du régime actuel font suite à un événement au cours duquel le leader de la chefferie traditionnelle du comté de Bong a honoré la vice-présidente Taylor.

Mme Walker explique avec colère sa rencontre et sa conversation présumées avec de hauts responsables du gouvernement à la boîte de nuit Jamaica Resort qui appartient au président Weah, c'est sur la route Robertsfield Highway. Bon nombre de personnes nommées dans cet enregistrement ont publiquement nié leur présence dans la boîte de nuit à l'heure indiquée.

Mais le représentant Cole, qui préside le comité du comté de Bong de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir, a déclaré à notre correspondant du comté de Bong que le fichier audio divulgué ne visait pas



#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

uniquement à nuire à sa réputation bien méritée, mais également à menacer la vie de sa famille. Le représentant du district électoral 3 du comté de Bong a démenti son implication dans un quelconque complot qui viserait à renverser le président Weah, qualifiant cette allégation de malveillante et dénuée de toute vérité.

Le député Cole précise qu'il

n'a aucune intention de renverser le président. Il a dit s'être battu pour que le président Weah devienne président. Il ne peut ainsi envisager de renverser le président Weah. Au législateur du comté de Bong de mettre en garde que cette accusation risque de faire peur aux investisseurs et faire planer un sentiment d'insécurité et de méfiance envers le gouvernement.

Français

Deux enseignants de l'université de Cocody en Côte-d'Ivoire en garde-à-vue

Deux des professeurs membres de la Coordination nationale des enseignants-chercheurs et chercheurs de Côte d'Ivoire (CNEC), principal syndicat des enseignants des universités publiques ivoiriennes, dont son secrétaire général, Johnson Zamina, qui avaient été auditionnés, ont été placés lundi nuit en garde-à-vue, a appris Alerte info.

« Johnson et l'autre professeur ont été placés en garde-à-vue jusqu'à demain », a confié un proche à un journaliste de Alerte info.

Après plus de sept heures d'audition, les deux enseignants ont été maintenus en détention à la préfecture de police d'Abidjan.

Tôt dans la matinée de lundi, la police avait été déployée à l'université d'Abidjan-Cocody où des professeurs de la CNEC avaient interrompu des examens en cours dans la faculté des Sciences

économiques.

Selon des sources, le secrétaire général de la CNEC, Johnson Kouassi, sous le coup d'une mesure de révocation, conduisait lui-même les opérations.

Au terme d'une Assemblée générale organisée le 31 janvier, les enseignants des universités publiques avaient décidé de « suspendre toutes les activités académiques dans toutes les structures universitaires sur toute l'étendue du territoire national pendant une année à compter du lundi 04 février 2019 jusqu'au lundi 04 février 2020 ».

Les enseignants entendaient ainsi protester contre la suspension de certains de leurs collègues après une précédente grève.

Finalement, les examens avaient repris aux environs de 13H00 (GMT et locale) dans le département de Sciences économiques, où des agents de forces de sécurité avaient été postés devant les salles d'examen.

Ecobank s'invite dans les stations Total

Après le Nigéria en juillet 2018, Ecobank a signé avec la filiale libérienne du groupe Total, un partenariat stratégique afin d'offrir des services bancaires d'agence à ses clients dans les stations-service Total à travers le pays.

Acté vendredi 15 février, ce partenariat « débutera avec 100 stations réparties dans tout le pays ; soigneusement sélectionnés pour permettre aux membres du public d'effectuer des transactions financières, telles que des dépôts, des retraits et des ouvertures de comptes dans les points de vente connus sous le nom de « points Ecobank Xpress » selon Peter Adegunle, directeur général de Total-Liberia. Pour George Mensah-Asante, directeur général d'Ecobank-Liberia, « le

déploiement de points Ecobank Xpress via les sites Total-Liberia est un prolongement de la stratégie de distribution et d'inclusion financière de la banque pour amener les services bancaires à la portée de chaque citoyen. L'événement de vendredi marque une nouvelle étape pour Ecobank, puisque nous avons entamé la deuxième phase de notre aventure numérique avec le lancement de l'application mobile Ecobank en janvier 2017 ».

Ecobank-Liberia compte actuellement plus de 120 000 téléchargements d'applications mobiles et espère attirer 100 millions de clients sur l'application mobile d'ici 2020. La banque a ouvert plus de 110 000 comptes Xpress. financialafrik.com

COMMENTAIRE

Par Olusegun Obasanjo, John Dramani Mahama, Ernest Bai Koroma, Saulos Chilima

Un point de bascule pour la démocratie en Afrique de l'Ouest ?

ABEOKUTA / MUNICH / FREETOWN / LILONGWE - La décision de reporter l'élection présidentielle au Nigéria, prise quelques heures seulement avant l'ouverture prévue des bureaux de vote, a soulevé des craintes quant à l'intégrité du scrutin censé se tenir ultérieurement. Ces craintes ne doivent pas devenir réalité - et le bien du Nigeria n'est pas seul en jeu. Si, dans le pays le plus peuplé d'Afrique, une démocratie stable peut-être pour la région un puissant exemple, une crise politique aurait des répercussions graves, qui s'étendraient bien au-delà de ses frontières.

L'Afrique de l'Ouest, où vivent environ 362 millions de personnes, est sur la voie de la consolidation démocratique. Selon l'ONG Freedom House : « L'Afrique du Sud et de l'Ouest ont nettement amélioré leur gouvernance démocratique ». Une évolution qui renforce la stabilité régionale.

En 2019 et 2020, trois pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, le Nigéria, le Sénégal et la Côte-d'Ivoire, convoqueront des élections générales, se donnant ainsi l'occasion de confirmer ou bien d'infirmier cette tendance. Étant donné la capacité des élections à déclencher en Afrique des crises nationales, un contrôle crédible de ces scrutins est nécessaire pour garantir qu'ils seront effectivement une force stabilisatrice et non un facteur de déstabilisation.

Le Nigéria, le Sénégal et la Côte-d'Ivoire sont tous trois dirigés par des présidents parvenus au pouvoir comme candidats de l'opposition, après avoir tenu en échec les candidats sortants. Tous ont bénéficié de la solidarité régionale et internationale, mais aussi de l'engagement de leurs citoyens pour la démocratie - ainsi que du soutien de la société civile à celle-ci. Les élections à venir les mettent au défi de protéger le système électoral et de respecter les valeurs qui ont permis leur accession au pouvoir.

Cela signifie, d'abord et avant tout, que tous les candidats et tous les partis doivent pouvoir jouer jeu égal, et que les candidats sortants doivent éviter d'abuser de leur pouvoir pour limiter l'espace d'expression des candidats d'opposition. Tous les responsables politiques doivent suivre les règles du droit et respecter la sanction des urnes. Les organes de contrôle du scrutin seront des éléments indispensables à la crédibilité et à l'équité du processus.

Mais, dans toute la région, un soutien extérieur est encore nécessaire pour garantir que soient observées les règles démocratiques et que soit accepté le résultat électoral. Au Liberia, en Sierra Leone et au Kenya, les moyens d'action combinés d'interlocuteurs locaux et internationaux ont joué un rôle clé dans le règlement des controverses déclenchées par des élections contestées. Au Nigéria, au Sénégal et en Côte-d'Ivoire, des initiatives similaires seront nécessaires pour relever les défis à venir.

Tandis que la société civile et les citoyens soutiennent des élections libres, équitables et crédibles, la communauté internationale - et en son sein les dirigeants africains - doit exercer une pression diplomatique et morale pour que ces exigences soient effectivement remplies. Ce soutien international importe particulièrement au Nigéria, au Sénégal et en Côte-d'Ivoire car ces trois pays sont d'ores et déjà confrontés à une crise intérieure qui menace de perturber leur démocratie.

Au Nigéria, la résurgence du groupe islamiste militant Boko Haram pose de graves difficultés de sécurité intérieure : les enlèvements se multiplient dans tout le pays et la violence monte dans la ceinture centrale, tandis que fermiers et éleveurs se disputent des ressources limitées. Un processus électoral troublé ne ferait qu'attiser les clivages existants.

Au Sénégal, le respect de la liberté d'Internet, du militantisme en ligne et de la neutralité du net suscitent l'inquiétude tant de l'opposition que de la société civile. Ces questions fondamentales exigeront un contrôle attentif. Dans un tel contexte, les tensions politiques liées à l'invalidation de certaines candidatures à l'élection présidentielle - dont celle des deux principaux opposants - soulèvent des risques majeurs.

La Côte-d'Ivoire, pendant ce temps, doit encore mener à son terme le processus de réconciliation nationale lancé après la guerre civile de 2011, déclenchée par le différend entre le président d'alors, Laurent Gbagbo, et son opposant, Alassane Ouattara, quant aux résultats de l'élection présidentielle de 2010. Le récent acquittement de Gbagbo par la Cour pénale internationale ainsi que l'effondrement de la coalition qui dirigeait jusqu'à présent le pays ajoutent à la difficulté d'assurer la poursuite de la consolidation démocratique.

S'ils sont abordés avec détermination, les défis qui menacent de perturber le progrès démocratique dans la région pourraient au contraire offrir des chances d'avancées supplémentaires. Bien qu'il revienne à ces pays de faire face les premiers aux difficultés qui sont les leurs, les voisins régionaux et, au-delà, la communauté internationale peuvent aussi contribuer à apaiser la situation, en aidant à renforcer la prévention et la gestion des conflits et en soutenant des élections libres, équitables et crédibles.

Le soutien au travail de la société civile dans ces pays revêt une importance particulière, notamment pour ce qui concerne la mobilisation citoyenne, la documentation des infractions, la lutte contre le fléau des nouvelles trompeuses et la prévention (y compris très en amont) des conflits ainsi que leur gestion. Le Nigéria, le Sénégal et la Côte-d'Ivoire ont également besoin de cadres transnationaux crédibles afin de compléter les mécanismes existant de prévention et de résolution des conflits. La région et plus largement la communauté internationale devraient soutenir ces institutions.

La communauté internationale doit aussi rappeler les responsables politiques et les représentants des pouvoirs publics de ces pays - par des déclarations solennelles comme par des coopérations plus discrètes - à leur devoir de respecter le droit électoral, de protéger les institutions vitales de la démocratie et de donner la priorité au bien-être de leurs concitoyens ainsi qu'au développement durable. Les organes de contrôle des élections doivent être protégés d'interférences politiques illégitimes et être dotés des marges d'action suffisantes pour mener à bien leur travail.

Enfin, la communauté internationale doit encourager les gardiens du processus électoral à mener leur tâche avec intégrité et en toute neutralité. Cela requiert la vigilance attentive d'observateurs internationaux.

Le soutien à des élections démocratiques crédibles au Nigéria, au Sénégal et en Côte-d'Ivoire est essentiel. Si ces pays s'effondrent dans une crise politique, les conséquences pour la sécurité de la région seront graves et elles auront un énorme impact humanitaire et économique. Le monde a dans l'immédiat suffisamment de problèmes pour ne pas y ajouter ceux-là.

À l'inverse, des élections menées à bien dans ces pays renforceraient, avec la démocratie, la stabilité nationale et régionale, et elles soutiendraient la continuité du développement économique. Si la détermination citoyenne, la volonté politique à l'intérieur et la solidarité internationale se manifestent, cet objectif est à portée de main.

Articles traduits

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FEATURE ARTICLE

A critical look at China's One Belt, One Road initiative

Cont'd from last edition

By Martin Hart-Landsberg

St the latest setback for the plan, as politicians and economists in an increasing number of countries that once courted Chinese investments have now publicly expressed fears that some of the projects are too costly and would saddle them with too much debt.

Myanmar is, as Reuters reports, one of those countries:

- Myanmar has scaled back plans for a Chinese-backed port on its western coast, sharply reducing the cost of the project after concerns it could leave the Southeast Asian nation heavily indebted, a top government official and an advisor told Reuters.

- The initial \$7.3 billion price tag on the Kyauk Pyu deepwater port, on the western tip of Myanmar's conflict-torn Rakhine state, set off alarm bells due to reports of troubled Chinese-backed projects in Sri

Merchants Holding, which constructed the new multipurpose port and industrial zone complex in Djibouti, is also a stakeholder and will be jointly managing the zone, in a consortium with Djiboutian port authorities, for ten years. Likewise, SOE contractors for new standard gauge railway projects in Ethiopia and Kenya will also be tasked with railway maintenance and operations for five to ten years after construction is completed. . . .

- Beyond transportation, the BRI is spurring expansion of digital infrastructure through an "information silk road". This is an extension of the 'going out' of China's telecommunications companies, including private mobile giants Huawei and ZTE, who have constructed a number of telecommunications infrastructure projects in Africa, but also the expansion of large SOEs such as China Telecoms. China Telecoms has established a new data center in Djibouti that will connect it to the company's other regional

has continued, funding constraints have meant that the government has had to forego its equity stake. This represents a case where African governments may risk losing ownership of projects, as well as the long-term revenues they bring.

Adding to political tensions is the fact that many BRI projects "displace or disrupt existing communities or sensitive ecological areas." It is no wonder that China has seen a rapid growth in the number of private security companies that serve Chinese companies participating in BRI projects. In the words of the Asia Times, these firms are:

- Described as China's 'Private Army.' Fueled by growing demand from domestic companies involved in the multi-trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, independent security groups are expanding in the country.

- In 2013, there were 4,000-registered firms,



Lanka and Pakistan, the official and the advisor said.

- Deputy Finance Minister Set Aung, who was appointed to lead project negotiations in May, told Reuters the "project size has been tremendously scaled down".

- The revised cost would be "around \$1.3 billion, something that's much more plausible for Myanmar's use", said Sean Turnell, economic advisor to Myanmar's civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.

A third reason for doubting the viability of the BRI to solve Chinese economic problems is the building political blowback from China's growing ownership position of key infrastructure that is either the result of, or built into, the terms of its BRI investment activity. An example of the former outcome: the Sri Lankan government was forced to hand over the strategic port of Hambantota to China on a 99-year lease after it could not repay its more than \$8 billion in loans from Chinese firms.

Unfortunately, Africa offers many examples of both outcomes, as described in a policy brief survey of China-Africa BRI activities:

- In BRI projects, Chinese SOEs overseas are moving away from 'turnkey' engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) projects, towards longer term Chinese participation as managers and stakeholders in running projects. China

hubs in Asia, Europe, and to China, and potentially facilitate the development of submarine fibre cable networks in East Africa. . . .

- Countries linked to the BRI, including Morocco, Egypt, and Ethiopia, have also been singled out [as] 'industrial cooperation demonstration and pioneering countries' and 'priority partners for production capacity cooperation countries'; these countries have seen a rapid expansion of Chinese-built industrial zones, presaging not only greater trade but also industrial investment from China. . . .

- However, the rapid expansion in infrastructure credit that the BRI offers also brings significant risks. Many of these large infrastructure projects are supported through debt-based finance, raising questions over African economies' rising debt levels and its sustainability. For resource-rich economies, low commodity values have strained government revenues and precipitated exchange rate crises—both of which constrain a government's ability to repay external borrowing.

- In Tanzania, the BRI-associated Bagamoyo Deepwater Port was suspended by the government in 2016 due to lack of funds. The port was originally a joint investment between Tanzanian and Chinese partners China Merchants Holding, which would construct the port and road infrastructure, along with a special economic zone. While project construction

employing more than 4.3 million personnel. By 2017, the figure had jumped to 5,000 with staff numbers hovering around the five-million mark.

What lies ahead?

The reasons highlighted above make it highly unlikely that the BRI will significantly improve Chinese long-term economic prospects. Thus, it seems likely that Chinese growth will continue to decline, leading to new internal tensions as the government's response to the BRI's limitations will likely include new efforts to constrain labor activism and repress wages. Hopefully, the strength of Chinese resistance to this repression will create the space for meaningful public discussion of new options that truly are responsive to majority needs.

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Nobody wants to kill President Weah

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Opposition leader Alexander Cummings asks President George Manneh Weah to provide evidence about an alleged plot here to assassinate him.

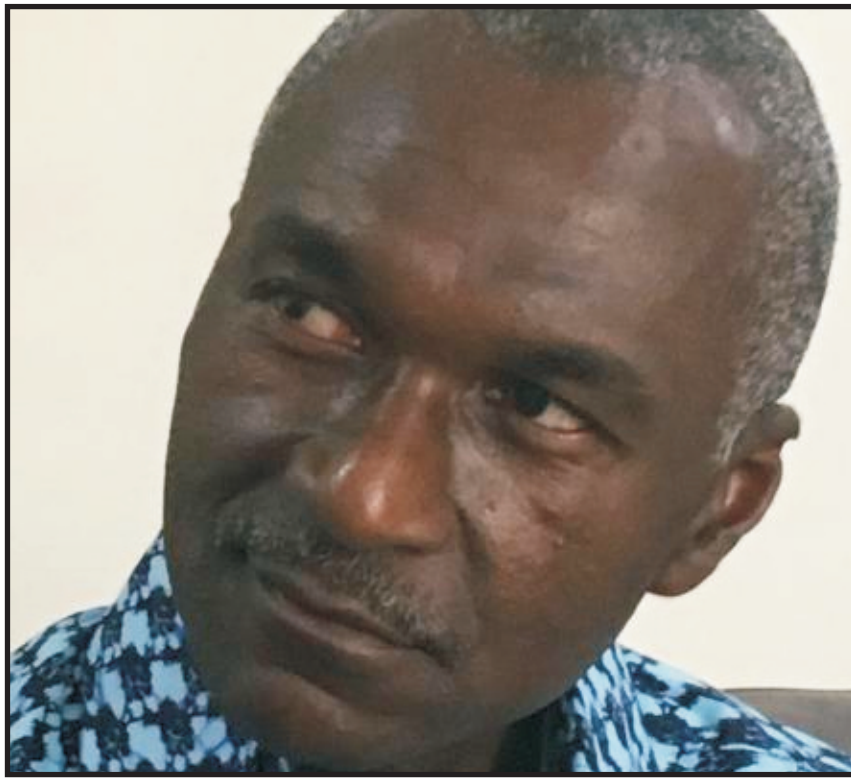
Cummings, leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress, gave the challenge Tuesday, 19 February in Monrovia on live talk show, "50-50" hosted on SkyFM.

He says President Weah needs people, who will tell him (President Weah) the truth to better handle the affairs of state.

He continues that the President also needs to focus on leading and governing, not only for his CDC partisans, but all Liberians.

According to him, members of the opposition are resolute in their demand for the President produce evidence on information about the alleged plot to assassinate him.

He reveals that in a recent statement, opposition parties requested President Weah and



his party Chairman Mulbah Morlu to provide evidence, noting that the opposition will decide their next course of action if the President and his party Chairman failed to come up with the facts.

He terms the allegation as nonsense and regardless, adding that members of the

opposition are waiting to see the government's position on the matter.

The ANC leader, a formal presidential candidate from the 2017 elections, says opposition parties in the country have informed development partners about the allegation coming from the

government.

Asked about his take on the running of the country, he says it is clear that President Weah is not running Liberia well, reminding that as opposition, it is their role to hold the Weah-led government accountable to the people by advancing suggestions and solutions that would help in addressing national issues.

He says it is also the responsibility opposition parties to call the government's attention to the many issues that confront the people of Liberia.

Cummings stresses that the Constitution of Liberia calls for check and balance, and he is one person, who believes in the rule of law, which citizens should follow irrespective of status, adding these are reasons why opposition parties continue to mount pressure on members of the Legislature to adequately play their role by holding the government accountable in accordance with the law.

He says contrary to President Weah's assertion that the country is better than before, Liberia is currently worse off than before.

He challenges the government ask ordinary citizens in the streets whether

their lives have improved or they are struggling to pay their children tuitions; house rents amid skyrocketing prices.

Addressing a news conference recently at the ruling CDC headquarters in Congo Town, party chairman Mulbah Morlu, referring to a Facebook post, frowned on leaders of opposition political parties for what he termed their silence and not condemning alleged calls for the assassination of President George Weah.

Morlu: "They have resulted to propaganda and scare tactics and they are now talking about assassination."

He accused opposition leaders of being unpatriotic, saying "I have not heard one statement of condemnation against people calling for war which means that they have endorsed these statements. We are here and here to stay."

The wide allegation led Montserrado District#10 Representative, Yekeh Y. Kolubah to write plenary, calling for the appearance of Chairman Morlu before plenary to substantiate his claims that members of the opposition are in support of the alleged assassination plot against President George Weah. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

CJ rules in his favor

By Ethel A. Tweh

Liberia's Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., has refused to recuse himself from the impeachment trial against Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh.

Lawyers representing Ja'neh on Monday, February 18, filed a motion requesting Justice Korkpor to recuse himself from presiding over the impeachment

But ruling in his own motion Tuesday February 19, Justice Korkpor said the motion calling for his recusal lacks legal and factual grounds.

However, Ja'neh's lead lawyer Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson took an exception to the Chief Justice Korkpor's decision and announces that he will make use of the statutes available.

The case which has triggered Associate Justice

But Ja'neh's lawyers have repeatedly maintained that the claim that their client allegedly manipulated the Supreme Court to rule in his favor in the property case questions the credibility of the Chief Justice who serves as the head of the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, rejecting the motion for his recusal Tuesday, Chief Justice Korkpor argues that Article 43 of the Constitution gives him the right to preside over impeachment proceedings when the president, vice president or associate justice is to be tried.

According to him, there is no part of the constitution that says someone can preside in the absence of the Chief Justice. Chief Justice Korkpor indicates that it is not his own doing, but it is the Constitution that gives him the right to preside over the impeachment proceedings.

He insists that he is not conflicted and the Annie Constance case was not decided by the Supreme Court on its merit.

He furthers that in order for a Chief Justice to rescue himself, there should be legal, tangible or factual reasons provided showing that the justice will not be fair.

He continues that since the Supreme Court didn't decide the Annie Constance case on its merits, the justices didn't make a decision or a pronouncement on the case.

"I, as one of the Justices in that case expressed no view and [took] no position in the



proceedings-a power invested in him by Article 43 of the Liberian Constitution.

The lawyers had argued that the ruling in the case for which Ja'neh's impeachment is being sought was also signed by Justice Korkpor and therefore his presence as the presiding officer in the impeachment trial poses a conflict of interest.

Ja'neh's impeachment trial evolved from a land dispute involving the embattled justice and a private citizen, one Madam Annie Yancy Constance. Associate Justice Ja'neh has been accused by lawmakers for abuse of power, using his influence as Associate Justice to secure a ruling in his favor at the Supreme Court to take possession of the land.

Nigerian Pastor appear for rape charge today

By Winston W. Parley

Hearing in the rape trial involving a Nigerian Pastor at the a local Church in Diggsville, outside Monrovia is scheduled to begin today Wednesday, 20 February at the Temple of Justice.

The Pastor has been accused of statutory rape, trafficking in person and kidnapping.

Defendant Pastor Revival Womo Sam who runs the Global Revival Movement faces indictment for allegedly raping a girl at his Diggsville residence while the victim was just aged 12 years in 2016.

The victim was allegedly placed under the care of defendant Sam by her mother for spiritual cleansing back in 2016, but the Pastor allegedly began abusing the 12 - year - old sexually and subsequently impregnated the kid.

The case was initially scheduled to be heard on Monday, 18 February at Court "A", but defendant Sam's legal representatives from the

Public Defense Office were granted time by the court to peruse the files of the case and appear Wednesday.

According to the indictment, Pastor Sam also faces kidnapping and trafficking in person charges for allegedly changing the victim's name and taking her on a trip to Nigeria without her parents' consent after impregnating her.

When the victim's mother travelled to Nigeria in June 2018 and confronted her daughter about her condition, the indictment says the kid confessed to her mother that Pastor Sam had allegedly impregnated her.

Further the indictment says when Pastor Sam was confronted by the victim's mother, he also allegedly admitted to the act and expressed his wish that the victim becomes his wife.

Defendant Pastor Sam was arrested here by police when he returned to Liberia and indicted for multiple charges.

case," Chief Justice explains.

Chief Justice Korkpor maintains that he committed no conflict of interest when he and three other justices signed

the judgment or the ruling of the Annie Constance and Associate Justice Ja'neh case.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Judge recommends regional courts of appeal for Liberia



The Resident Circuit Judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit in River Gee County, George W. Smith, calls for amendment of Articles 20(b) and 66, respectively, of the Constitution of Liberia to establish regional courts of appeal across the country that would speedily hear appeals from lower courts of record.

He says having courts of appeal in the legal system is important for the economy as it will address issues affecting the business climate in Liberia, including challenges

to resolving insolvency faced by banks and businesses, and challenges to enforcing business contracts, stressing that of these two, enforcement of contracts is cardinal, as trial courts are daily engaged in the resolution of cases involving breach of contracts.

Article 20 (b) of the Constitution reads: The right of an appeal from a judgment, decree, decision or ruling of any court or administrative board or agency, except the Supreme Court, shall be held inviolable. The Legislature

shall prescribe rules and procedures for the easy, expeditious and inexpensive filling and hearing of an appeal.

Article 66 of the Constitution says, "The Supreme Court shall be the final arbiter of constitutional issues and shall exercise final appellate jurisdiction in all cases whether emanating from courts of record, courts not of record, administrative agencies, autonomous agencies or any other authority, both as to law and fact except cases involving ambassadors, ministers, or cases in which a county is a party. In all such cases, the Supreme Court shall exercise original jurisdiction. The Legislature shall make no law nor create any exceptions as would deprive the Supreme Court of any of the powers granted herein."

Delivering his Charge at the opening of the February Term of Court in River Gee on the topic, "Courts of



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Single currency key at Dakar meeting

The 34th Joint Ordinary meeting of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and the Operations and Administration Committee of the West African Monetary Agency (WAMA) opened on Monday, February 18, 2019, in the Senegalese capital,

Dakar. The joint meeting is in preparation for the meeting of the Committee of Governors and the Convergence Council scheduled for February 21 and February 22, 2019, respectively, in Dakar.

The key focus of the 34th Joint Meeting is to review

progress on the ECOWAS Single Currency program scheduled for 2020 as part of the ECOWAS Monetary Cooperation (EMPC).

In an overview of the Macroeconomic Situation in the ECOWAS member states, the Director General of the



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